

State of South Dakota

SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2001

400E0736

HOUSE ENGROSSED NO. **SB 160** - 02/28/2001

Introduced by: Senators Brown (Arnold), Everist, and Olson (Ed) and Representatives
McCoy and Peterson (Bill)

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to prohibit the offering of postsecondary education credit
2 or degree by nonaccredited institutions.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. That chapter 13-49 be amended by adding thereto a NEW SECTION to read as
5 follows:

6 No person or governmental entity may offer postsecondary education credit or degree in
7 South Dakota, or while organized under the laws of South Dakota, unless currently holding
8 accreditation from a regional accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of
9 Education pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1099b as amended to January 1, 2001, or participating in any
10 federal financial assistance program authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965
11 as amended to January 1, 2001. A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor and subjects
12 the violator to a civil penalty of twenty-five thousand dollars.

13 The provisions of this section do not apply to a religious institution that offers credit or
14 degree solely for the purpose of conferring status or authority within that religion.